

Superfund Records Center
SITE: Olin Chemical
BREAK: 2-1
OTHER: 483575

EPA Official Record

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Subject: Olin Site - - NDMA in Private Wells

Mike,

In January I called to inform you that Olin Corp. had indicated to EPA that NDMA had been detected in additional private wells. The data at that time was preliminary and had not been provided to the home owners.

The purpose of this email is to inform the Town that the this private well data is now confirmed and Olin mailed the results to the affected home owners this past Friday. To provide some level of privacy to the property owners, public documents generated by EPA will continue to list private well locations by tax map/lot numbers. The streets where NDMA has been detected are identified below.

Attached please find three files;

A data table prepared by MACTEC for Olin Corp. which summarizes the 2010 analytical data set for the 11 private wells actively being monitored by MACTEC.

A private well figure prepared by Nobis Engineering for EPA based on the MACTEC results. This figure identifies the general location of the 11 private wells and presents a summary of the 2010 analytical results for NDMA only. At this point, NDMA is the only compound of concern for private wells.

A fact sheet prepared by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) which provides a good overview of the chemical properties and potential health risks associated with NDMA. I have attached this fact sheet to home owner letters.

A few key points;

NDMA has continuously been detected in 2 private wells on _____ since October 2008. NDMA has recently been detected in 5 additional private wells (1 of which is an irrigation well) at very low levels ranging from 0.54 to 5.6 ppt. 2 of these 5 wells are also located on _____. The other 3 are located on the far side of _____.

There are no federal or state drinking water standards for NDMA. EPA has calculated a level of 25 parts per trillion ("ppt") or nanograms per liter ("ng/l") as a minimum risk-based threshold for recommending that well water not be consumed. Only one sample has clearly exceeded this level at 31 ppt, and bottled water is being provided to that family (lot M-24/L-94 on _____). This is the only well where EPA will officially recommend no consumption use. However, at EPA's urging, Olin Corp. is also providing bottled water to a second family (lot M-24/L-54 on _____) due to the continued detection of NDMA at a range of 14 to 20 ppt.

A few detections of hydrazine, formaldehyde and other site-related compounds are also noted. The concentrations of these other compounds is too low to contribute any meaningful increase in health risk. However, detection of these other compounds helps to verify that the NDMA detected in private wells is associated with the Olin-sourced plume.

Next Steps;



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For the 5 additional private well owners, EPA will not recommend restriction on well use or require distribution of bottled water at this time. EPA will recommend re-testing. EPA will be communicating this to the property owners by letter within the next week.

Olin will continue to provide bottled water to the 2 families on

Olin will continue to sample these 11 private wells. Most recent samples were collected in March (results expected in June).

An additional property owner located on _____ has come forward and was also sampled in March. This is the only private well not previously sampled in the _____ neighborhood.

Based on records provided by the Wilmington BOH, an additional 26 drinking water wells have been tentatively identified. There are also numerous irrigation wells. These wells are located mainly on _____

EPA has requested that Olin sample these additional private wells. An iterative approach to sampling these wells is likely.

EPA will soon be requiring (under terms of the existing Consent Order) that Olin Corp. undertake a study to evaluate permanent water supply options to the affected home owners.

I plan to offer an "invitation only" meeting or open house for the private well owners, and will coordinate with Shelly at the BOH on dates/forum.

While these recent detections of NDMA in private wells is troubling on several fronts, it is important to note that NDMA is found in many common foods and home products, so folks should know that their background exposure to NDMA is not zero (I think it helps to put things in perspective). Just one of many issues that make having a face to face meeting with the well owners important.

I look forward to continued cooperation with the Town to address this potential health concern.

Please write or call with any questions.

Jim



NDMA_Hits_Feb_2011_MapLot[04-06-11].pdf
Fact Sheet.pdf



Private Wells Data Summaries for 2010.pdf



ATSDR

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*"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" - - President John F. Kennedy - -
January 20, 1961*

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